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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,776	05/09/2001	Michael S. Steele	ISAA0013	5228

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EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/852,776

Applicant(s)

STEELE ET AL.

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,4. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the patent application number (09/852,776) filed May 9, 2001.
2. The submitted Information Disclosure Statements with references are considered and entered in the application.
3. The submitted formal drawing are considered and entered in the application.

The pending claims 1-15 are examined as follows:

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Card et al (US 6,646,652 B2).

As described in the *Field of the Invention of Card et al*, Card relates to the field of information visualization and in particular to the display of representations of linked information based on user interest. The present invention describes and claims a plurality of "Design Principles". Likewise, Card et al also describes similar teachings as claimed in the present invention.

With regard to claim 1:

Card describes a method and system to enable a user to view large collections of linked information on a computer based display (see Card, abstract).

As per "displaying in a strategy view an on screen part of a strategy that is not affected by an off screen part of said strategy;" Card describes since displayed trees will mostly fit in the display bounds, thus, there will not be off screen linked information to affect the important node (column 6, lines 24-45; column 13, lines 54-61);

As per "showing detail in said display where it is important;" Card also describes full size (detailed) displays of the pages can be displayed alongside the tree using a suitable web browsing application. Card further describes related relevant nodes are always given more space (detailed) in the standard layout while the user is browsing the tree (column 13, lines 57-61, and elsewhere).

As per " always showing a condition path in said display;" as described above, since the displayed trees will mostly fit in the display bounds, thus, the condition path will always be shown for the user to traverse through each segment of the tree (column 3, lines 65-column 4, lines 12; column 13, lines 54-61);

As per “providing said display without scroll bars,” Card is also describing navigating large collections of linked information on a computer display without using scroll bars (see abstract);

As per “providing navigational shortcuts for traversing said strategy view,” similarly, Card provides navigation shortcuts, such as clicking a segment or a node for traversing from one segment to another segment (column 13, lines 20-25);

As per “providing navigational cues in said display,” similarly, Card describes animation to show tree transitions (navigational cue) (column 12, lines 45-57);

As per “fitting as much information on said display as possible,” again, Card describes that displayed trees will mostly fit in the display bounds (column 6, lines 24-45; column 13, lines 54-61);

As per “maintaining a consistent top of the strategy-children orientation in said display,” Card, as illustrated in Fig. 2, shows the display of a uniform tree of 4 levels, with 4 branches at each level and the focus on root node 201 (column 8, lines 20-45);

As per “fitting said display into a rectangular view,” as illustrated in the drawing figures, Card fits all display tree into a rectangular view (see figs. 2-5, 7-10); and

As per “rendering all strategies.” Card also describes rendering the linked information (column 14, lines 39-64).

With regard to claim 2:

Independent claim 2 corresponds generally to independent claim 1 and recites similar features in storage medium form, and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

With regard to claim 3:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” As described above, Card describes a method and system to enable a user to view large collections of linked information (strategy) on a computer based display (see Card, abstract).

As per “ wherein if a portion of said strategy is not being viewed, it has no effect on layout of a visible portion of said strategy;” Card describes since displayed trees will fit in the display bounds, thus, there will not be off screen linked information to affect the important node (column 6, lines 24-45; column 13, lines 54-61);

As per “ wherein said strategy layout is dynamic and adaptable to a current portion of said strategy being viewed;” (see Card, column 5, lines 41-47);

As per “ wherein a user may view, in its entirety, a portion of said strategy on which said user currently wants to concentrate.” (See Card, column 3, lines 46-54; column 8, lines 32-45, column 11, lines 53-58).

With regard to claim 4:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract);

As per “defining a single segment of said strategy as a focal point of said display;” (column 7, lines 1-23); and

As per “displaying segments with less detail the farther away they are from said focal point.” (Column 7, lines 38-55; column 8, lines 32-45).

With regard to claim 5:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “always displaying a set of conditions needed to reach a single segment currently selected as a focal point.” (Column 3, lines 65-column 4, lines 12; column 13, lines 54-61);

With regard to claim 6:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “instead of providing scroll bars, accomplishing navigation by hopping from segment to segment.” (See Card, abstract, Summary, column 13, lines 20-25).

With regard to claim 7:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract);

As per “wherein selecting any segment makes that segment a focal point;” (column 7, lines 1-23); and

As per “wherein selecting any element in a decision path makes a corresponding segment the focal point.” (Column 7, lines 1-23; column 8, lines 32-64);

With regard to claim 8:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “providing navigational cues which may comprise smooth, double-buffered animation transitions.” (Column 5, lines 56-58; column 12, lines 45-57).

With regard to claim 9:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “using available display space to provide extra context for a focus node;” (column 5, lines 56-58; column 12, lines 45-57);

As per “eliminating redundant information;” (column 12, lines 10-44); and

As per “rendering information as compactly as possible.” (Column 8, lines 65-column 9, lines 64; column 12, lines 10-44);

With regard to claim 10:

As per “...widths of nodes and levels are only wide enough to fit a widest label.” (column 8, lines 65-column 9, lines 64; column 12, lines 10-44);

With regard to claim 11:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “maintaining a consistent top of the strategy-children orientation;” (see figs. 2-5, 7-11);

As per “wherein a top of the strategy is always at a center, left most portion of said display.” (See figs. 2-5, 7-11; column 8, lines 20-45);

With regard to claim 12:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “fitting said display into a rectangular view;” (see figs. 2-5, 7-10);

As per “wherein said strategy layout is dynamic and adaptable to a current portion of said strategy being viewed.” (See Abstract).

With regard to claim 13:



As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

As per “wherein no assumption is made about a form of said strategies that are being rendered;”(column 5, lines 1-18, column 16, lines 16-51).

As per “wherein every strategy that a user or software provider creates can be displayed.” (abstract, column 5, lines 1-18).

With regard to claim 14:

As per “providing a strategy; providing a strategy view display of said strategy;” (see Card, abstract); and

as per “selecting a portion of said strategy to display by choosing a branch of said strategy view to display and optionally how many levels of said branch to display.” (column 7, lines 37-59; column 7, lines 20-45; column 9, lines 44-64).

With regard to claim 15:

As per “...a branch segment is either displayed in its entirety or completely hidden.” (column 11, lines 35-52).

CONCLUSION

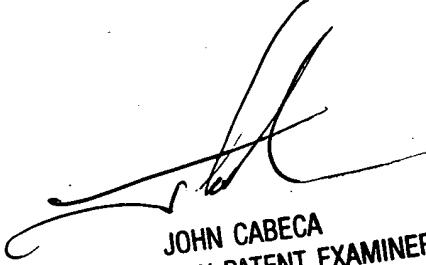
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 6:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner’s supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

Art Unit: 2173

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

*Tadesse Hailu*

Nov 21, 2003



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